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ABSTRACT

This pamphlet offers brief descriptions of ideas for including sex equity in career education programs. Activities are suggested to encourage parent participation and use of community resources. All grade levels from early elementary to secondary are represented. Sample activities include a language arts contest, student council projects, a hall of fame of individuals in nontraditional occupations, Friday fun days for participation in nontraditional experiences, special features in student newspapers, a nontraditional career fair, a media fair, visitations by parents in nontraditional occupations, a career auction, and peer shadowing. (YLB)

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INCLUDING SEX EQUITY IN CAREER EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

A LIST OF IDEAS FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS

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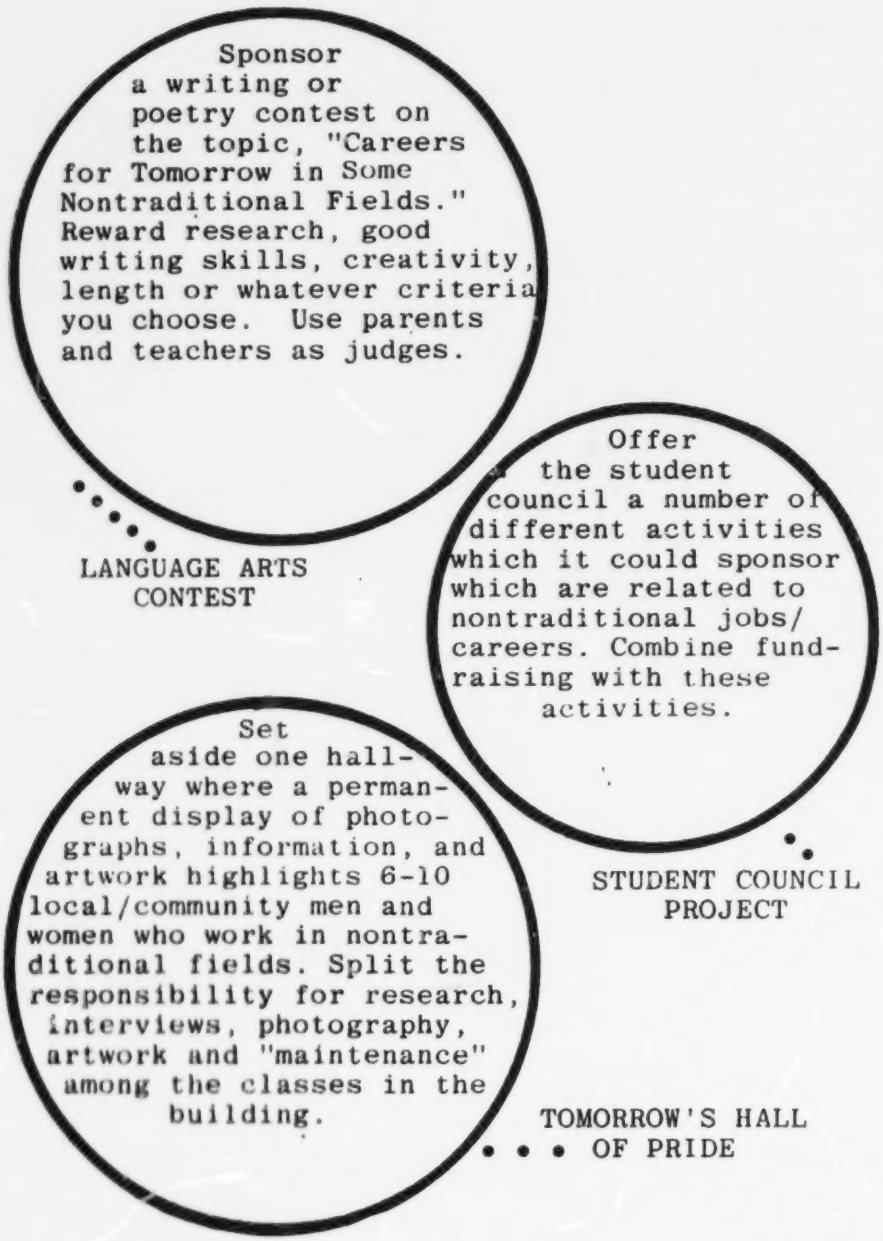
Sponsor a writing or poetry contest on the topic, "Careers for Tomorrow in Some Nontraditional Fields." Reward research, good writing skills, creativity, length or whatever criteria you choose. Use parents and teachers as judges.
LANGUAGE ARTS CONTEST
Offer the student council a number of different activities which it could sponsor which are related to nontraditional jobs/ careers. Combine fund-raising with these activities.
STUDENT COUNCIL PROJECT
Set aside one hall-way where a perman-ent display of photo-graphs, information, and artwork highlights 6-10 local/community men and women who work in nontra-ditional fields. Split the responsibility for research, interviews, photography, artwork and "maintenance" among the classes in the building.
TOMORROW'S HALL OF PRIDE

Select a number of non-traditional careers. Have different classes prepare a brief article (3-5 paragraphs) on each career and read to students on the public address system or during homeroom period. Reprint articles on the school calendar or luncheon menu for the month.

NONTRADITIONAL CAREER FEATURES

Survey students and staff to gather their impressions of all the workers who contribute to making your building operate smoothly, including teachers, administrators, secretaries, custodians, paraprofessionals, lunchroom workers, student organizations, parent groups. Discuss who does the most important work. What sex works where?

OUR SCHOOL TEAM

Set aside a certain number of Friday afternoons wherein all students participate in nontraditional experiences, such as aerobic dancing, cooking, macrame, martial arts, photography. Use parent volunteers!

FRIDAY FUN DAY

Devote an entire issue of the student newspaper to the theme of sex equality in jobs. The features might include an article on the results of mini-polls among students, an editorial, facts about jobs and salaries, a cartoon, selected career descriptions, an interview with an adult worker in a nontraditional field, etc....

SPECIAL FEATURES: STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Gather several films, slides, tapes and other non-print materials on nontraditional jobs for a half-day to show throughout the building. Structure so that all classes see at least two films, one aimed at a female audience and one aimed at a male audience. Invite parents too. Market during lunch

A MEDIA FAIR

Sponsor a program for a half-day during school, Saturday or in the evening wherein all resource persons and information speak to the advantages of considering a job or career in a nontraditional field. Use community and parent resources!

A NONTRADITIONAL CAREER FAIR

Invite parents who work in nontradtional jobs or have nontraditional interests, hobbies, etc. Use these parents as classroom speakers, as resources for a Career Fair, at an assembly, for student interviews, or during Friday Fun Day activities.

PARENT VISITATIONS

Gather information on careers, salaries, and job outlooks, in the form of a booklet for students. Distribute during class and use as homework, assigned reading, discussion in class, library research, or similar projects.

NONTRADITIONAL CAREER BOOKLET

Sponsor an all school activity wherein each class runs (during recess, after school, during lunch) in support of sex equity in careers/jobs. Create competition between classes and provide incentives, such as awards, ice cream sundaes, community newspaper picture...

MARATHON RUN

Have students design 3 large (8½ x 11" sheet) career cards which each shows a future career/job they would like to have. Laminate each career card. Allow students 2-3 days to swap cards in their own classroom, then expand the swap among different classrooms for 1-2 days. (Divide the swap into early and upper elementary divisions.) Follow up discussion should focus on the motivations for swapping (money, interest, etc.) including the influence of sex role stereotyping.

CAREER CARD SWAPS

Hold an auction for clusters of primary, early and upper elementary classrooms in which students are given play money to purchase a career and all benefits of that career (earnings, advancement, prestige, etc.). Follow up discussion should focus on the values associated with stereotyped male and female jobs which will be reflected by the purchase price. Comparisons can be made of purchase prices by grade levels. (The list of purchase prices can also be used in math exercises.)

A CAREER AUCTION

PEER SHADOWING

Match students from upper elementary grades to teach students from lower grades in specific activities. Select activities for upper level students which are nontraditional, such as girls playing sports, boys reading stories, girls working on tool projects, boys cooking. Let classroom teachers arrange schedules.

Have different classes in the building take responsibility every 3-4 weeks for preparing a display case or bulletin board. Designate it as the "Nontraditional Career Corner." Give it publicity during homeroom announcements, in the school newspaper, on the public address system...

VISUAL HIGHLIGHTS

CONTEMPORARY MESSAGES

Sponsor a contest to create the best design for a T-shirt, bumper sticker, or poster. Encourage students to use contemporary characters (T.V. or movie stars, Peanuts, Smurfs, Muppets, singers). Select winners from each grade level and display the winning entries prominently during parent open house or parent conference week.

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Free publications, workshops, community presentations and programs tailored to meet the needs of a group are offered at no cost to school districts. Office for Sex Equity staff may be contacted by telephoning 517/373-3497 or writing to:

Office for Sex Equity in Education
Michigan Department of Education
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